

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:171

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2000

LICENCE FOR EXPLORATION OF CRUDE OIL AND GAS

NAWAL KISHORE RAI;SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are inviting proposals from companies so that it may issue them licences for exploration of crude oil field during November-December, 2000;
- (b) if so, the total number of such fields for which the licences are likely to be issued for oil exploration;
- (c) the date on which the survey for identifying oil fields at these places was completed alongwith the estimated total oil reserves in these areas; and
- (d) the reasons for delay in issuing licences for oil exploration at these places?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK)

(a) to (d):- A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 171 for answer on 30.11.2000 regarding 'Licence for Exploration of Crude Oil and Gas'

(a) & (b) :- The bids for exploration of blocks under second round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) are expected to be invited before the end of December, 2000 after completing various preparatory activities leading to invitation of bids. It is proposed to offer for bidding around twenty five exploration blocks, onland, shallow water offshore and deep water offshore.

(c) & (d):- Exploration activities involving acquisition of new data, reprocessing/reinterpretation of the existing data form a continuous and ongoing process. The hydrocarbon potential of the above twenty five blocks can be assessed only after a discovery, through exploration. The exploration will start after the award of these blocks, signing of the Production Sharing Contract and grant of the Petroleum Exploration Licence.